

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3321
INFO USMISSION USUN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
CINCMAC SCOTT AFB

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 4994

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, SF, NL, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: NETHERLANDS ANTICIPATED RESPONSE TO UN
CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR MILITARY SEGMENT OF UNTAG

REF: USUN 3411

1. ACCORDING TO A DUTCH NEWS SERVICE REPORT,
THE NETHERLANDS ARMY IS READYING A 200 MAN MEDICAL COMPANY
FOR SERVICE WITH UNTAG IN NAMIBIA IN ANTICIPATION OF A
POSSIBLE FORMAL REQUEST FOR A DUTCH CONTRIBUTION FROM
SYG WALDHEIM. AN MFA OFFICIAL (ETTEMA) TOLD EMBOFF
SEPTEMBER 7 THAT THE UN REQUEST HAD NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED;
HOWEVER, HE ADDED, MEMBERS OF THE 42ND MEDICAL COMPANY
WERE RECEIVING INOCULATIONS ON A SCHEDULE THAT WOULD BE
COMPLETED IN ABOUT 35 DAYS. ETTEMA SAID THAT AN ADVANCE
PARTY COULD BE READY ON A FEW DAYS' NOTICE.

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2. THE DESPATCH OF THE MEDICAL COMPANY WILL BE THE FIRST
TIME THAT THE NETHERLANDS HAS CONTRIBUTED A MILITARY UNIT
TO A UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATION, ALTHOUGH FIFTEEN DUTCH
OFFICERS ARE SECONDED TO UNTSO IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE
CHIEF OF THE MFA'S SOUTHERN AFRICA SECTION (VAN VLIET)
SEES THE RESPONSE TO THE ANTICIPATED REQUEST FROM THE

SYG AS SOMETHING ENTIRELY CONSISTENT WITH THE NETHERLANDS
POSITION ON NAMIBIA. HE SAID THAT THE GON HAS NEVER
CONSIDERED SWAPO THE SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NAMIBIAN
PEOPLE. IT WAS, THEREFORE, IN A GOOD POSITION TO CONTRI-
BUTE TO A PEACEKEEPING OPERATION BECAUSE IT HAS BEEN POLI-
TICALLY NEUTRAL ALTHOUGH IT HAS ALWAYS SUPPORTED
INDEPENDENCE FOR NAMIBIA. VAN VLIET ADDED THAT THE
DUTCH FEEL A CERTAIN MEASURE OF RESPONSIBILITY TO THEIR
AFRIKAANS OR DUTCH SPEAKING DESCENDANTS IN
SOUTHERN AFRICA AND, FOR THAT REASON ALSO, WANT TO DO THEIR
PART TOWARD A PEACEFUL TRANSITION.
JOSEPH

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